

March 13, 2018

Dear Representative Fleishmann, Senator Slossberg, Senator Boucher and Members of the Education Committee:

I am writing to you today in regards to HB 5447 that you are trying to pass. I am fully certain that the passing of this bill would negatively impact all students within my private special education classroom. Not only would it specifically effect my students but it would have a harsh impact on the company that I work for which is an amazing program that services students on the spectrum. Each of my students require and benefit from individualized ABA support. I couldn't see how this bill would help learners, their families, teachers, BCBA's and all other related service providers that currently work within the field of special education. The students that I work with don't necessarily have the ability to advocate for themselves due to deficits in communication but I am fully confident that they would want to communicate this same message that I am conveying to you right now. Keep in mind that you would be receiving more letters of opposition if all individuals with special needs had the ability to communicate and advocate for themselves. Please do not move this bill forward and consider more appropriate options to aid our children and adolescents with special needs.

Sincerely,

Tamara Zichichi  
Special Education Teacher  
Milford, CT